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# Echo

## SAT tests show Crays Hill as worst in country

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CRAYS HILL primary school is the worst for maths and English in the whole country.

Not one 11-year-old at the school achieved the expected level four or above in both subjects for key stage two SATs tests last year.

The school is attended largely by travellers, from the nearby Dale Farm site, and has previously recorded the worst attendance level in the country. Just one other school in the country – Oak Trees Community School, Kent – scored as badly.

Figures show 15 Crays Hill pupils sat the tests, with 13 per cent getting Level 4 in science and English and 7 per cent with Level 4 in maths.

However, no pupils achieved the expected Level 4 in both maths and English.

A spokesman for the school said: "Regardless of their starting point, the school is committed to helping all pupils achieve full potential. Our central focus, like every school in Essex, is to provide high quality education for every child."

However, the figures show record numbers of primary schools across the country are scoring full marks in the tests. In total, 329 succeeded last year in making sure every 11-year-old reached the standards expected of them in English, maths and science.

The latest figures show there are 75 children on the roll, which had more than 200 pupils in its heyday. In 2005, when numbers dropped as low as 35, it was estimated to cost more than £7,000 a year to teach each pupil compared to the county average of £2,550.

David McPherson-Davis, a former governor at the school, resigned amid fears of slipping standards in 2004.

He said: "Considering the excessive financial support for the school over the past five years, we do not appear to be seeing the results that one expects. Questions need to be asked about the value for money tax payers are getting."

County Hall leader Lord Hanningfield said: "This is of considerable concern. I know the school is largely traveller children and we can have real problems, because they often only get a few weeks education before going off somewhere else, but we are obliged by law to give them some form of education. This is something I need to investigate further."

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